

ESTABLISHED IN 1861 THE AMERICAN OLDEST BEE-PAPER IN AMERICA

BEE JOURNAL

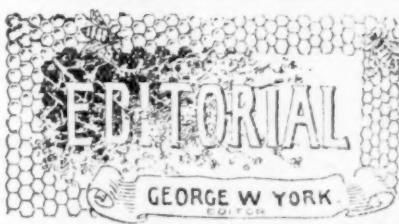
Weekly, \$1 a Year.

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY
TO BEE-CULTURE.

Sample Copy Free.

VOL. XXXIV. CHICAGO, ILL., JULY 26, 1894.

NO. 4.



Boracic Acid—a quart of boiling water to a tea-spoonful of the drug—is said to be an immediate cure for bee-stings.

To Remove Propolis from the hands, clothing, etc., use alcohol, ether or chloroform, as they are ready solvents of bee-glue.

Not a Large Crop has been taken by bee-keepers this year, if we may judge from the reports thus far. In many localities the severe drouth has cut off the honey resources, and doubtless the bees must be fed to tide them over.

A short crop should mean longer (or better) prices for honey this year, so those who are fortunate enough to have any honey for sale, should use extra care in marketing it, in order to realize the best financial results possible.

It is the height of folly to rush much honey to any one market, and thus over-stock it, and cause prices to be lowered. A better way is to market it yourself, if you can do so—sell it in your home market—to your neighbors who do not keep bees, or else sell it from house to house in the nearest towns. The producer may as well save the middlemen's profit, and at the same

time work up a demand that would take all his honey, year after year, and also at much better prices than can be realized in any other way.

With a superior article of honey (either comb or extracted), and a well worked home market, we believe the best and most satisfactory results in bee-keeping will be attained.

What Have You Learned this season in your apiary? Have you discovered any new kinks that are worth knowing? If so, why not tell us all about it, and thus contribute your share toward the general good? The BEE JOURNAL is here to aid in such interchange of ideas as shall be most helpful to all, and the only way to get the greatest amount of good out of it, is for each one to put in something of value. What have you to give?

■ I have never succeeded in rearing queens which pleased me every time, till I commenced to work in harmony with Nature's plans.—Doolittle.

The Honey-Flow for 1894.—We find in *Gleanings* for July 15th, this editorial item about the honey-flow for this year, which will be of interest:

The honey-flow, so far as reported, seems to be widely different in various localities. So far in Ohio—at least in our vicinity—we have had a good flow from basswood. Certain parts of New York State and Pennsylvania report the same. As the letters are coming in day by day, about half report this as being the poorest of the poor seasons so far. The other half—especially those in the basswood regions—are jubilant over their fine crops of honey. In a few days we expect to send out statistical blanks to

get more accurate information. It is a little to early yet to judge accurately of the season. But we know enough already to feel assured that a very large number of bee-keepers will get no surplus.

The drouth has interfered greatly with nectar-secretion in many places, and especially here in Northern Illinois, but the drouth was broken last night (July 19th), and the refreshing showers we are now having will help to save the corn crop, and likely to give the flowers another start. The fall crop of honey may yet come to the rescue, and make up for the lack of an early crop.

Beginning Bee-Keeping.—“Before starting in the business, the prospective bee-keeper should inform himself in the art.” So says Prof. Cook, and wisely, too. One way to “inform himself” is to read the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL in connection with the standard books on bee-keeping. It is a much mistaken idea to hope to succeed in bee-keeping, or anything else, without some preparation or previous information about the work to be undertaken.

To American Bee-Keepers.—Mr. Frank Benton, the pushing Secretary of the North American Bee-Keepers’ Association, has issued the following important address:

TO THE BEE-KEEPERS OF NORTH AMERICA.

The North American Bee-Keepers’ Association was organized in December, 1870, with the avowed object of “promoting the interests of bee-culture throughout North America.” All who are familiar with its work know, and its published proceedings also show, that it has adhered to this purpose, and has contributed as much as any similar society in the world to the spread of a knowledge of practical and scientific apiculture. Reviews, translations, and citations from these Proceedings appear in the aparian journals of all European countries. Much has in this way been done by this society toward giving to the American system of apiculture the recognition which its great merits justly entitle it to receive.

APICULTURE PROGRESSING AND THE SOCIETY FLOURISHING.

The Association was never in a more flourishing condition than at present, having reached at the last meeting the highest

membership it has ever possessed. But the remarkable progress made by apiculture in the United States and Canada within the memory of many who are still among the active members of this society—in fact, the development of this industry until it has become one of considerable national importance—makes it certain, when we consider the wide fields yet unoccupied, that still greater things may be expected. If all who are interested in this pursuit, and are proud of the rank which the apiculture of America holds, are willing to assist the objects of this Association to the extent at least of *becoming members and retaining continuous membership*, results not merely gratifying to all, but substantial benefits to every member will follow. The field is wide enough for all, and there should be no holding back through a spirit dictated by a feeling that one’s own advancement is hindered by the well-earned progress of his fellow-man. Each should have instead a just pride in the knowledge that he has contributed to the general advancement.

WHAT THE SOCIETY CAN DO.

The North American Bee-Keepers’ Association might aid in obtaining National and State legislation favorable to the interests of apiculture, both in securing and promoting attention to this branch at experiment stations, and in checking the sale of adulterated aparian products. Should this body be composed permanently (as it certainly ought to be) of three-fourths or more of the intelligent apiarists of the country, its opinions, resolutions, and requests would carry with them far more weight and influence than they do at present. The time has come, in fact, when apiculture, having arrived at the dignity of a distinct pursuit, and having enlisted the attention of some 300,000 of our citizens, has within itself forces worthy of much consideration—forces that should be united in order to do more effective work.

EVERY BEE-KEEPER,

therefore, whose eye falls on these lines is personally requested to ally himself with the members of our society, whether he can be present at the regular meeting or not. The Proceedings, published in pamphlet form, are sent to all who pay the annual membership fee, and the names of all members appear in the printed list.

The next Annual Convention will be held at Saint, Joseph, Mo., on Oct. 16, 17, and 18, 1894. To avoid confusion at the time of the meeting and just before, members, or those who wish to become such, are requested to forward their annual Dues (\$1.00) at the earliest date possible, to the Treasurer of the Association, Mr. George W. York, 56 Fifth Avenue, Chicago, Ill., who will return a neat membership-card. Those who attend the convention are requested to present membership-cards and secure badges.

State or local aparian societies paying an annual affiliation fee of \$5.00 receive medals to be given to their own members as prizes; and delegates appointed by these societies to attend the conventions of the North American receive membership-cards and badges free.

For further information address:

FRANK BENTON,

Secretary North American Bee-Keepers' Ass'n,
Washington, D. C.

The foregoing statement and appeal is so clear and emphatic, that it hardly seems necessary for us to say more than that we fully endorse it. We ought to build up a grand international bee-association, and the only way to do it, is for each bee-keeper on the continent to become a member, and thus enjoy the great benefits that will inevitably result from a large and representative membership.

We are now ready to receive your dues for 1894.

Salvation and Honey.—One of our exchanges says it is "indebted to Rev. P. H. Bodkin, of Hanford, Calif., for this bit of experience:"

I had a unique experience last Sunday at Grangeville. I preached a sermon in a church whose walls are filled with "little bees and honey." For three years the bees have had possession, and all efforts to rout them have been futile. Like the sparrows of David's time, they have "a house for themselves" in God's temple, and there they doubtless will remain as long as the church stands. There are three swarms in possession, each having a side to itself. When the thermometer rises to 105 degrees, and it does very frequently, then the honey begins to run. It stands in pools about the foundation. It is readily caught in pans from this natural extractor. We do not know that Pastor Crist and his wife are alarmed over the prospect of what an ex-

tra hot day might do in melting down the amber walls of their church, and flooding them out with flowing streams of honey.

The bears in the mountains may get a scent of that church some night, and then there will be lively times around the parsonage.

The pastor would, no doubt, like to have the honey if he could get it without tearing down the church, and that would hardly pay. It looks as if the bees were there to stay, and will pay for their lodgings by keeping the pastor and congregation "very sweet."

What great church-going "little people" bees are! And what a glorious church the above must be, with its "streams" of salvation and honey "flowing" freely for all!

Bee-Keeping in Georgia.—Mr.

A. H. Homburg, of Maryland, has sent us the following clipping from the *Valdosta Telescope*, a Georgia newspaper, which may be of interest. The Mr. Duncan mentioned is one of our subscribers, and likely will be surprised to read the item in the *BEE JOURNAL*. Here it is:

In naming the industries of DuPont, a few weeks ago, I omitted one that we can boast of more than any other, that is Duncan & Conrad's apiary. They have at this place 275 colonies, besides they have 100 or more colonies some three or four miles below, and some three or four miles above, consequently their bees have the range of the swamps for eight or ten miles, this place being situated on the large Suwanoochee creek. The swamp is filled with wild flowers two-thirds of the year, consequently it is the best adapted place for the bees to secure honey in all this section of the State.

Beginning about Dec. 20th, the soft maple comes in, then next comes the tyty, about the middle of February the tooper gums, March 1st black-gum, April and May the gallberry, representing the largest yield, and making the finest grade of honey.

Mr. Duncan, the manager, has made this business a study. They started here four years ago with five colonies, and have increased from season to season until now they have the largest business of this kind we know of in the State, which requires almost all their time. Besides, Mr. Duncan has invented a self-hive, and he can sit off in the shade and watch the bees hive themselves without any assistance from him whatever.

Their honey-house is 14x24 feet, and they can carry in 1,000 pounds of honey, bees and all, and sit down, and in two hours' time the bees pass out through the gauze-wire bee-escape. They put up the honey in one-pound sections, then after carrying it through the rejector, etc., with 48 sections to a case, it is ready for shipping.



In this department will be answered those questions needing IMMEDIATE attention, and such as are not of sufficient special interest to require replies from the 20 or more apiarists who help to make "Queries and Replies" so interesting on another page. In the main, it will contain questions and answers upon matters that particularly interest beginners.—ED.

Keeping Bees on Shares.

Suppose I rent (or take) 20 colonies of bees in the spring of the year, what share ought I to have if I furnish the hives for the new swarms, sections, etc.?

Luce, Mich. W. C.

ANSWER.—In this day of strikes I'm not going to try to settle differences between labor and capital. As a rule, working bees on shares is not a very satisfactory thing, and there's danger of dissatisfaction on both sides. As you furnish all the labor and part of the capital, the only thing the other man should have is a good interest on the value of the capital he furnishes, that is the bees and hive they occupy. If I were to make a guess in the premises, I should say he would do pretty well if he should get a fourth of the surplus honey and increase. If the increase should be a single swarm, it wouldn't be easy to take a fourth of it, but part of the surplus might be traded for the share of the swarm.

Preventing Swarms—Pulled Queen.

1. If I examine my bees every eight days, and cut out queen-cells, can I prevent swarming?

2. What are we to understand by a "pulled queen?"

3. Please describe Mr. Hutchinson's system of re-queening to prevent swarming?

S. H. Prosser, Nebr.

ANSWERS.—1. No, you can't rely on it. Sometimes it will succeed and sometimes fail.

2. It doesn't mean that she is taken

by the leg or wing and pulled out of her cell, as some have seemed to understand, but that her cell has been pulled open, allowing her to emerge sooner than she would otherwise have done. When a colony has sent out a prime swarm and contemplates further swarming, a number of queens usually mature in the hive, and about a week after the issuing of the first swarm, if you put your ear to the hive, especially in the still evening, you will hear a young queen piping, answered by one or more queens in a coarser voice. The piping queen is at large, and those that quahk are still in their cells. These latter are, however, mature queens, having a circle gnawed in the capping of the cell, waiting for a chance to come out. Take one of these cells, pull off the capping and you have a "pulled queen."

3. I don't know that he has any peculiar system. Each year he sends South and gets young laying queens, putting them in place of his older queens, and it is well known that a queen of this year's rearing is less likely to swarm than an older one.

Persimmon as a Honey-Yielder.

Are persimmon blossoms good for honey? Father has 6 or 8 trees of them, and the bees just swarm on them most of the day. The blossoms come in between the poplar and linden.

Burkett, Ind. N. L. V.

ANSWER.—I don't know anything about the persimmon as a honey-yielder. Perhaps some one can tell us about it. But if the bees are busy on it, it is pretty safe to say that it is a good yielder, for bees are not likely to fool away their time on blossoms that yield no honey.

Droneless Colony and Swarming.

I have five colonies of bees in my yard, all of them strong in bees, and one of them very strong, but there are no drones in the yard, nor have there been any this season. Will they swarm while they are in a droneless condition? They are doing fairly well, considering the dry weather we are having, and the strongest colony is at work in the super.

Bees in neighboring apiaries that have drones are killing them. A. S. Boone, Iowa, July 2.

ANSWER.—You need not expect a swarm from a colony that is killing drones. If the killing is general, no

swarms need be expected. Sometimes, however, a colony that has reared a young queen may be killing drones without any falling off in the harvest, and this will be no indication that other colonies may not swarm. Again it may happen, as it did quite generally this year, that early in the season the weather may be such that there is a general slaughter of drones, and a good harvest coming afterward will bring a fresh crop of drones as also swarming. Unless buckwheat swarms are common with you, you will not be likely to have swarming this year. There are exceptions to all rules, and a droneless colony might swarm, but I should not expect it.

Wants the Honey in the Sections.

I have a colony of bees with a young Italian queen introduced last spring. There is an abundance of honey coming in, yet the bees will not work much in the supers, although I baited them, but fill up every available space in the brood-nest. There is only enough brood in the hive to fill three or four frames, and the other space is filled with honey. Will feeding sugar syrup during a honey-flow make the bees run the honey from the frames into the sections, and make the queen lay more? or do you think it is the fault of the queen? What bad I best do to make them store the honey in the sections?

There will be more honey later on, but not so white as that I am getting now, which is from sourwood, and almost as clear as water. J. F. H.

Brinkleyville, N. C.

ANSWER.—Feeding sugar syrup may help to start the queen laying when she slacks up on account of scarcity of pasture, but it will do no good in your case, for your trouble seems to come from plenty rather than scarcity. I am really at a loss to know what is the trouble if there is nothing wrong with your surplus arrangements. Possibly the fault may be with the queen.

Profitable Bee-Keeping, by Mrs. Atchley, will continue for some time in her department of the BEE JOURNAL, at least each alternate week. Until further notice we can furnish the back numbers from May 1st, beginning with her "Lessons," to new subscribers who pay \$1.00 for a year's subscription to the BEE JOURNAL—that is, we can commence their year with the number having the first lesson, if they so desire.

CONVENTION DIRECTORY.

Time and place of meeting.

1894.
Aug. 1.—Central California, at Hanford, Calif. J. F. Flory, Sec., Lemoore, Calif.
Aug. 16.—East Tennessee, at Whitesburg, Tenn. H. F. Coleman, Sec., Sneedville, Tenn.
Oct. 16-18.—North American. St. Joseph, Mo. Frank Benton, Sec., Washington, D. C.
Sept. 11-13.—Nebraska State, at Lincoln. L. D. Stilson, Sec., York, Nebr.
Sept. 15.—S. E. Kansas, at Bronson, Kan. J. C. Balch, Sec., Bronson, Kans.
1895.
Jan. 28.—Venango Co., at Franklin, Pa. C. S. Plizer, Sec., Franklin, Pa.
Feb. 8, 9.—Wisconsin, at Madison, Wis. J. W. Vance, Cor. Sec., Madison, Wis.

For the benefit of the Association, in order to have this table complete, Secretaries are requested to forward full particulars of the time and the place of each future meeting.—THE EDITOR.

North American Bee-Keepers' Association

PRES.—Emerson T. Abbott....St. Joseph, Mo.
VICE-PRES.—O. L. Hershiser....Buffalo, N. Y.
SECRETARY—Frank Benton, Washington, D. C.
TREASURER—George W. York....Chicago, Ills.

National Bee-Keepers' Union.

PRESIDENT—HON. R. L. Taylor..Lapeer, Mich.
GEN'L MANAGER—T. G. Newman, Chicago, Ill.
147 South Western Avenue.

Queens and Queen-Rearing.—If you want to know how to have queens fertilized in upper stories while the old queen is still laying below; how you may safely introduce any queen, at any time of the year when bees can fly; all about the different races of bees; all about shipping queens, queen-cages, candy for queen-cages, etc.; all about forming nuclei, multiplying or uniting bees, or weak colonies, etc.; or, in fact, everything about the queen-business which you may want to know—send for Doolittle's "Scientific Queen-Rearing"—a book of over 170 pages, which is as interesting as a story. Here are some good offers of this excellent book:

Bound in cloth, postpaid, \$1.00; or clubbed with the BEE JOURNAL for one year—both for only \$1.65; or given free as a premium for sending us three new subscribers to the BEE JOURNAL for a year at \$1.00 each.

Bound in paper cover, postpaid, 65 cents; or given free as a premium for sending us two new subscribers; or clubbed with the BEE JOURNAL a year—both for only \$1.40. Send all orders to the BEE JOURNAL office.

Read our great offers on page 99.

OUR DOCTOR'S HINTS.

BY F. L. PEIRO, M. D.

McVicker's Building, CHICAGO, ILL.

Value of a Happy Disposition.

Verily, "a contented mind is a continual feast." Of all the delightful sensations that keep trouble and sickness from the door, a happy disposition that is perpetually inspired by deeds of kindness, excels all other factors in dispelling disease.

One need not be rich to enjoy the blessings of a joyous mind; indeed, the rich seldom are so blessed! The infallible prescription for this extolled condition is, "Do unto others as ye wish that others should do unto you." If we would but be guided by this grand precept, *selfishness*—that curse to humanity—would be removed, and our actions and circumstances so changed as to make of this earth a very Paradise! Our worries come principally from this one vicious source. And it is safe to say that fretting begets more sickness of a dangerous degree than perhaps any and all other causes combined. Call the engendered ailment what you may, sooner or later it develops into the condition that kills!

Doctors have some very euphonious names for diseases that if honestly explained would not be pleasing or flattering. "Insomnia," for instance, sounds very distinguished. Plain "can't sleep" would not be considered half so aristocratic, and if the *cause* of it were known, the verdict might be still more uncomplimentary! When a person cannot enjoy good rest there is usually something the matter not exactly to his credit. He, or she, who properly respects the rights of others, and tries to smooth the pathway of as many less fortunate as naturally come in his way, will have little trouble with digestion or sleep. But if as often happens, he lies awake o' nights to plan the discomfiture or ruin of his neighbor, he will quite easily acquire "loss of sleep," and it serves him right! Then, in turn, that begets nervous conditions, his system is enfeebled, his digestion impaired, his temper becomes irascible, children learn early to call him "Old Cross Patch," and all lose respect for and shun him. He has perhaps amassed a fortune, just in time to leave it, be buried, and forgotten!

Do you say this is a moral rather than medical topic? But the duty of the true physician is quite as much to point out causes that lead to sickness as to administer remedies. Indeed, it is much wiser to indicate the prevention of disease than its cure, and success more often attends the former than medicines insure recovery.

Then strive after cheerfulness, avoid those actions, of mind or body, that you intuitively know will bring discontent. To this end you must govern your acquisitive desire for that which you cannot yet afford, and in all ways refuse obligations you are not certain to be prepared for when the time of requirement arrives!

Bowlegs and Difficult Teething.

I don't wonder you feel so anxious about baby Rob's little bowed legs! Any loving mother naturally will. But be of good courage, and don't lay to heart all the advice, admonition and fearful foreboding of your good friends, who all *mean* well enough, but are not quite competent to give you safe counsel. I can imagine how their look of horror can make a young mother feel terribly apprehensive, but just keep your sensible head on your shoulders and *reason* a little.

Rob will be all right and have just as straight and strong legs as any boy, if you will just do what I suggest. No, he don't need any "braces" or other kind of harness for his wee legs. Keep all those expensive instruments of tortures off the little fellow. The *reasons* that his legs are crooked are mainly that his system is improperly nourished; and, then, the likelihood that in your great desire to see him look "awfully cute," you, or his "Daddy," try to make him stand up and walk. Under such unreasonable treatment it is simply a wonder his legs are not bent double!

The bones are hardened and kept so by the phosphate of lime that the necessary food contains to properly nourish us, and when bones in little ones are soft and yielding, it is evidence that Nature's laws have been disregarded in this respect, and the result has followed.

When the child is born, it should become the strictest care of the wise mother to so regulate her diet, that the required amount of lime enter the system to properly harden the bony structure of the child. To this end the mother should eat liberally of oatmeal and cracked wheat porridge, bread,

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butter, fruits, "cottage cheese," salads, "greens," eggs, and fresh fish, to the exclusion of meat and all kinds of pastry. Buttermilk is a healthy drink, where one is not averse to it. This mother's diet is quite sufficient to prevent bowlegs and difficult teething in children, but when it has been neglected, and for other reasons, the child shows plainly the deformity we are considering, let the mother adopt the above diet while nursing her baby, and, if weaned, then the child should have the first two articles of food several times per day, and plenty of fresh (but better, skimmed or boiled) milk with a tea-spoonful of lime water added, for its daily drink. Don't allow him to stand on his feet, but frequently expose his bare legs to the hot sun until they become tanned brown as a berry. Let the child play out in the sun, on a sand-pile, where he will naturally stick his feet and legs, playing greatly to his benefit.

Daily bathe the body and thoroughly rub the legs in weak salt water, and you can depend upon his perfect recovery with greatest assurance. Of course, if the deformity is due to accidental injuries received, this treatment will not be sufficient—a good surgeon should then be consulted.

Good Honey-Sellers will likely be needed now, and the little 32-page pamphlet, "Honey as Food and Medicine," has for years proven itself valuable in making repeated sales of honey. Its distribution will create a demand for the honey first, and then the bee-keeper can follow it up and supply that demand. Send to us for a sample copy, only 5 cents; 10 copies, post-paid, 35 cents; 50 copies, \$1.25; or 100 copies \$2.00. Try 50 or 100 copies, and prove their ability to aid you in disposing of your honey at a good price.

The Novelty Pocket-Knife is worth having. Mr. A. G. Amos, of New York, says this about it: "The 'Novelty' pocket-knife which I received with the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL arrived all O. K., and it is a dandy." Better get one yourself, and then *you* will know what a "dandy" thing it is. See page 95 for advertising offer.

Have You Read the wonderful Premium offers on page 124?

A Nebraska Storm.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY MRS. A. L. HALLENBECK.

Far away to the west, while the sun still shone bright,
Rolled up in its grandeur a cloud black as night,
And while the dark masses rose fold upon fold,
The far-away, echoing, low thunder rolled.

From the field came the boys with hurry and shout,
And quick from the traces the horses took out,
As on came the shadow that darkened the day,
While black rose the dust-billows marking its way.

The poultry-boy hurried, the gate opened wide,
And drove all his fluttering, small broods inside,
And we all hurried in before Nature's dark frown,
While with haste and a clatter each window went down.

On, on comes the shadow, from earth to the sky;
The Wind Giant reaches his long arms on high;
The roof of the stable he brushes away—
The trees bend before him, or break in his play.

He tears from the wind-mill one busy, white wing.
And then throws it away, a poor, broken thing;
Uncovers the bee-hives, or tumbles them over,
And scatters the heads of the poor, dried-up clover.

As we watch the wild havoc, he hurries away.
And we gather the fragments he left of his play;
We cover the bee-hives e'er the big tear-drops fall,
Which the cloud-giant sheds in remorse for it all.

The thirsty earth drinks in the life-giving rain;
The clover re-opens its parched leaves again;
The flowers will spring from the freshening sod,
Nectar-laden with thankfulness unto their God.

Our wee, busy workers will gather the store.
To feed them and cheer us when summer is o'er;
So we thank the Father who sent us the rain
To show that none ever shall trust Him in vain.

Millard, Nebr.



CONDUCTED BY
MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY,
BEEVILLE, TEXAS.

PROFITABLE BEE-KEEPING.

Lesson No. 6.

(Continued from page 46.)

BEE-PARALYSIS.

This disease seems to be next to foul brood, and causes the bees to dwindle very fast. I have not seen a case of paralysis for a long time, there being none in this part of Texas; but in north Texas I used to be bothered with it. There have been so many remedies offered, and none of them effectual, that I fear it will be only a loss of time to repeat them here. I believe that it is unwholesome food of some kind that causes it, as they seem to have fever, as they swell up, and their hair comes off. Now, you all know that any swelling is caused from inflammation, and a fever sets in, or any derangement of the stomach is likely to cause fever. So I suppose we had better name this bee-disease "Bee-Fever," as it goes without a name.

Next, is to find a remedy. Who will first find an effectual remedy is unknown, at present I suppose, but testimony should be in order from all directions until we find a cure. I will advise clean hives, dry quarters, and good food, as I stopped it in my apiaries this way four years ago, and have not had it since, but I could not offer this as a remedy, for nothing was done or given the bees except clean hives and new combs of healthy honey, and I prescribed the same for others, and it failed. So I offer this as a suggestion only, and not as a resolution or remedy. If any one cures bee-paralysis, please let us know how you did it, that we may let all know it.

Bees in Northern States do not seem to suffer as much as those in the South, from this disease, but I believe Mrs. Axtell told me she lost very heavily two

years ago by bee-diarrhea, and she lives in Illinois. She told me that she had to keep bottles of hot water about her bees to keep them from freezing, and dampness may have caused the disease in her case. It may be brought on by several ways. Bad food, cold and damp, or by too much pollen taken with honey. Let us all watch it closely.

BEE-MOTH.

This could not be called a disease, but I wish to call attention to everything that destroys the bees. In Northern latitudes the bee-moth has but a short time to work, as it takes warm weather for them to thrive. Here in the South a queen-rearing yard, or any colony that is not strong in bees *all* the time, will be killed outright if not properly and promptly attended to.

There are two classes or species of bee-moth here. The small, or center moth, is very bad indeed, and sometimes injures our bees, no difference how strong they are. The reason I have called or named them the "center" or foundation moth is, they work right in under the base of the cell-caps, and web the young bees fast, and they can't hatch, but gnaw off their cell coverings, and just work like a lot of pigs trying to get out of a pen, until they die. So when you see a squad of bees with their heads all uncovered, and wriggling for life, you can pull them out and see the little moth-worm hop out. Then you will soon learn what a center moth is.

The old, big gray-back moths are known, I suppose, by every one that ever handled bees, so I do not think it necessary to describe them here; but they are simply a large fly that lays eggs about the unoccupied part of the hives, and they grow rapidly, and soon grow to large, wrinkly worms that are very destructive, and it seems they just try to see how much comb they can destroy.

The worm itself is properly named "moth," as it can subsist upon anything that it can eat—dry, hard wood, and iron for ought I know, as it seems that nothing is too hard for them. But they seem to love pollen better than honey or comb, and quickly destroy old combs with pollen in them, if allowed to do so.

We make war against the moth, and kill them in many ways. Combs can be sulphured in a tight room, or soaked in water until all are drowned.

By all means try not to let the moths get a start on your honey, beeswax, comb foundation, or in your hives, as damage will be done.

There are many and numerous enemies to bees, but I will not take space here to mention any more of them, but mention only those that kill the bees outright if allowed to run.

Foul brood, bee-paralysis and bee-moth—all these will surely "get away with" the bees by and by, if not cured. It used to be supposed that paralysis would get well of itself, but it seems now from the reports of this and last year, that when well started it only lets go when its victim is exhausted.

Now, I think we had better learn the best way to dispose of our honey, should we be fortunate enough to have a crop to sell soon. I will relate to you in the next lesson how I have *always* managed to sell all the honey I could produce.

JENNIE ATCHLEY.

(To be continued.)

Non-Swarming Bees.

What is the matter with Dr. Miller and Doolittle? I see they are both praying for bees that don't swarm. Now, it seems to me that they both need to see some natural swarms come out in the spring, to stimulate them, as both of them have been complaining of over-work.

Well, this is the way I feel about non-swarming bees: There are no such bees, and in my opinion never will be that are of any account. You take a colony of bees that shows no disposition to swarm, and as a rule they are slow-motioned, poke-easy, and a kind of lazy outfit, though of course there are some exceptions. But give me bees that are full of vim, and that make preparations to swarm as soon as the proper season arrives, and they will not be found wanting for full supers, if there is any honey to be had.

In this latitude bees *will* swarm if they have a 10-bushel box to work in, and they will build a common-sized brood-nest in one corner and swarm. Room makes no difference.

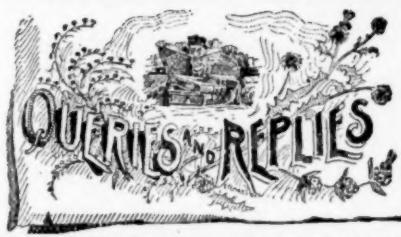
Then, I would not have swarming done away with if I could, as it is almost a sure cure for headache, or almost any other ache or bad feelings. When the first swarm issues in the spring, I rush out, throw my bonnet, apron, and sometimes my shoes, right up among the bees, and shout out, "The bees are swarming!" and usually the whole family rushes out, and what a joyous time we have! Headache gone. Back-ache gone. New life, new energy, and stimulated to the highest pitch; and

that one swarm is worth more to our health and ambition than ten bottles of Hostetter's bitters.

Then talk about getting bees that won't swarm! No, sir ree! give me bees full of life and vim, and that will swarm as nature demands, and I am content. But when we get enough swarms we *very* easily control that part. We have a good remedy for the swarming fever, and it will surely stop it if properly administered.

Now, Bros. Miller and Doolittle, don't cry for non-swarming bees any more. If you ever get 'em, I fear they will be worthless.

JENNIE ATCHLEY.



Wax Secretion and Sugar Syrup.

Query 933.—Do bees, while being fed on sugar syrup, secrete wax the same as when they are feeding on honey?—Subscriber.

Yes.—J. E. POND.

Yes.—J. A. GREEN.

Yes.—R. L. TAYLOR.

They do.—M. MAHIN.

Yes.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Yes.—EMERSON T. ABBOTT.

Not the same.—H. D. CUTTING.

I suppose they do.—EUGENE SECOR.

Yes. Why not?—J. H. LARRABEE.

I never tried the experiment.—J. M. HAMBAUGH.

I don't know, but I think they would.—E. FRANCE.

Yes, though, *perhaps* less plentifully.—DADANT & SON.

I never have fed syrup enough to know.—JAS. A. STONE.

Yes, if fed enough to stimulate them.—MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY.

Not entirely, unless pollen is abundant.—MRS. L. HARRISON.

It is said that they do even in larger quantities than on honey.—P. H. ELWOOD.

Yes, I believe they do. (But, I am not positive.)—W. M. BARNUM.

I could never see any difference, and believe that there is none.—A. J. COOK.

It is claimed that they do. I have never experimented in that line.—MRS. J. N. HEATER.

They do if the feeding is done at the proper season for them to secrete wax.—J. P. H. BROWN.

I've had them pile white wax in the corners of the feeder while being fed sugar syrup.—C. C. MILLER.

They secrete wax fed on sugar, but perhaps not to as great an extent as they would if fed honey.—S. I. FREEBORN.

They secrete wax when feeding on sugar syrup, but honey is a superior article to produce wax in bees.—G. W. DEMAREE.

They probably do, but I never fed enough to find out. Considerable would need to be fed before the bees would begin wax secretion.—G. L. TINKER.

If only a little is fed to promote spring breeding, little or no wax will be secreted. If sugar syrup is fed liberally in warm weather, and it is necessary to build comb, the bees will secrete the wax.—C. H. DIBBERN.

Continuous Advertising, even if it be only a small announcement, pays the advertiser the best in the long run. Spasmodic advertising, like "spasms" of any kind, is unsatisfactory. To secure the very best results, year in and year out, you must keep your name and business before the public. Only by so doing can you hope to keep from being forgotten when the time comes that your would-be customers wish to purchase what they want.

Besides, in the fall of the year, more agricultural papers send out large numbers of sample copies, and the advertiser fails to get the advantage of reaching the thousands who get the free sample copies, unless he keeps his advertisement running *all the time*. This is a matter worth thinking about. Heed the lesson taught by that intelligent comb foundation firm, Chas. Dadant & Son, and also others, whose advertisements are found in *every number* of the BEE JOURNAL without a single miss.

□ **Great Premium** on page 125!



Keeping Comb Honey Ungranulated.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY JOHN F. GATES.

I want to tell how I kept comb honey one year without granulating, it being better even than when first packed away. I simply kept it up chamber. Moth may sometimes get in it in summer, if not looked after once in awhile, though this seldom has happened with me. But I can keep it in such nice shape this way, that I don't worry any more about having granulated honey, and I mostly "hang on" to quite a quantity of my honey until spring, when it sells very quickly. The fall market is mostly spoiled by small lots of honey being rushed forward, and a most serious need has been to find a way to keep comb honey in good condition until these small lots have been disposed of.

I have had large quantities of honey almost ruined by turning watery, and candied, when I thought I had it in a good place on the first floor of my house. I have tried keeping honey in many places, and ways, but no place, so far, will keep it like the chamber of my dwelling-house, and as near the stove-pipe as I dare to put it. Will bee-keepers please try this up-stairs way of keeping comb honey, and report their success? If they try it, they will, I think, be sure to follow it, unless they have, or find, a better way, which if they do, please let us know through the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, for this question of keeping comb honey over, I am inclined to think, is one we will, in the near future, have to solve, or lose heavily on account of granulation.

It seems comb honey must not only be kept dry, but warm, especially in winter, and we seldom keep a fire all winter in any but our dwelling-house, though those who wish to keep over much honey and can't spare the room in their chamber, can warm their honey-house.

If I am not mistaken, it was Mr. D. A.

Jones who wrote of some persons keeping several sections of honey in their chamber a year in perfect condition. I had almost forgotten the item, until my experiment brought it to my mind. Was it you, Bro. Jones, who wrote that item? If so, please tell us more about it.

Many are asking what to do with candied comb honey, or if it can be liquified in the comb. The only thing that can be done with such honey is to melt it up and make extracted honey of it. This is done at a loss, of course, for extracted honey is the cheaper, and could have been produced cheaper than comb honey.

We can hardly imagine how much candied comb honey there is in the country each year. Will those who have candied comb honey tell us where they kept it, and at what time of the year it candied? And will those who can keep comb honey a year without having it candied, please tell us where they kept it, etc.?

Now will Prof. Cook tell us just what temperature is needed to keep comb honey one year in perfect condition?

Ovid, Pa.

The Renewing of Brood-Combs.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY REV. S. ROESE.

It is a sad mistake for bee-keepers to allow brood-combs to remain in the hive year after year until they become as black as a stove-pipe, and the cells rounding instead of six-cornered, and dotted with holes here and there, caused by the bee-moth, which is too willing and ready to carry on its work of destruction in the hive, when a colony has dwindled down below its normal strength.

Brood-comb should be rejected and melted over, as soon as it becomes dark, and the walls of its cells thick, this thickness being caused by successive breeding in the same cell, each larva maturing leaving a thin coating in the cell; and every intelligent bee-keeper knows too well that every queen prefers, by far, bright combs for depositing her eggs, to those of dark, callous and thick cells; and it is also known that the worker-bees will fill older combs first with honey, and leave the newer and brighter combs for breeding.

The writer's experience has been such, that colonies which had their hives filled with old combs, were breeding very slowly, and on giving them a new comb of honey kept over from the previous

season to stimulate breeding, it soon became emptied, and the honey transferred to older combs, and the new combs were filled with eggs in a short time.

Since the invention of the movable frame and comb foundation, this act of renewing combs is no longer a task, but a delight for the bee-keeper to see his discouraged colonies take a turn from bad to better, with new life and energy.

Herr Schoenfeld, a noted German bee-keeper, states in his experience, that renewing brood-combs becomes, with a vigilant bee-keeper, a matter of necessity, as workers matured in old combs are of much smaller size, and often deformed and weak; and contrary wise, bees matured in new combs, are of plump and healthy size, and are healthy and strong.

But the renewing of brood-combs must be done in the right time and season, so as not to endanger the prosperity and well-doing of the colony. It has been the writer's practice for years, in early spring, as soon as the temperature would admit an examination, to place in each strong and healthy colony one or two clean, new combs in which two or three patches of brood had been reared the year before; and the result has been a satisfactory one. And if this operation is repeated every spring, the danger of combs getting too old is avoided. Later on, at the time of the honey-flow, it is a good plan to place in each strong colony a frame having a full sheet of foundation, between the frames of hatching brood.

This renewing of combs should be done in the spring of the year, as such operations towards fall would greatly insure the winter preparations of the bees going on at that time of year in the hive. A word to the wise should be always sufficient.

Maiden Rock, Wis.

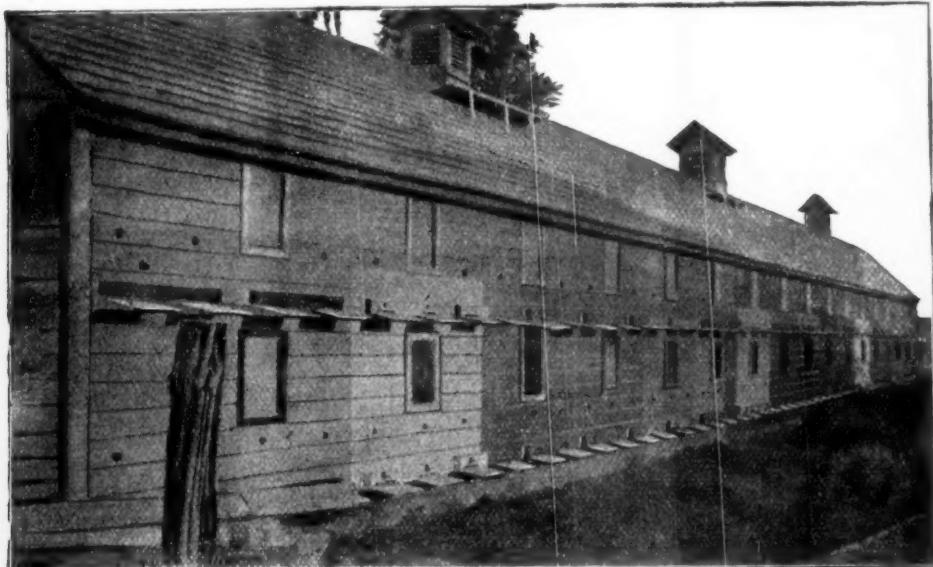
"Largest House-Apiary" Described.

BY W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

House-aparies present several advantages over out-door establishments. Hives and supers may be of poorer and thinner lumber, and require no paint, as they are not exposed to the weather. There is no wading through the wet grass, nor working under a sweltering sun. The hives and implements are close together, enabling the operator to do more work with less tramping about. All trouble from robber-bees is entirely

done away with, as no bees can gain access to the interior except those of the colony that is being handled. Bees are more amicable when handled in-doors. They can be handled in rainy weather, or even in the night, if necessary. The work of protecting them for winter is greatly lessened, and artificial heat can be used if found desirable. If there

tilating openings on each side. The sills are 2 pieces of 2 by 4; the lower joists are 2 by 8, 2 feet apart from center to center, and the same distance as the studding. The floor is double, of $\frac{3}{8}$ lumber, planed, with a strip of sheet-iron between the layers next to the wall and around the studding, to prevent mice from gnawing up though.



Exterior View of Mr. H. P. Langdon's House-Apiary.

comes a warm day in winter, the bees can enjoy a cleansing flight, which is not the case when wintered in the cellar. The protection enables them to build up in the spring much more rapidly; and, finally, everything can be kept under lock and key, safe from thieves and prowlers.

What is admitted to be the largest house- apiary in the world, is owned by a friend of mine, H. P. Langdon, in northern New York, who took a great deal of pains to inform himself in regard to the advantages and disadvantages of other house- apiaries before building; and now, after two seasons' use, the only fault he finds with the building is that it is not one foot wider. This would give plenty of room for sorting and crating the honey in the house, instead of having a separate house for this work.

The building is 11 by 100 feet, and stands on a good stone wall, having ven-

A platform 12 inches high, and the width of a hive extends lengthwise of the building in the center of the room, except that a space of 8 feet is left at each end, and a space of 6 feet in the middle. This platform is for holding extra hives, supers, etc., that the alley on each side may be left clear. The studding is 2 by 4, and of such a length as to make the top of the plate—2 by 4, two pieces—come $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the floor, and the upper joists, $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 8, are nailed across the rafters one foot above the top of the plate, thus making the room $9\frac{1}{2}$ in the clear.

The roof has the common pitch, and is well shingled. A few braces are put in to keep the building from shaking in high winds. The boarding is a second quality of spruce, made shiplap, and put on horizontally.

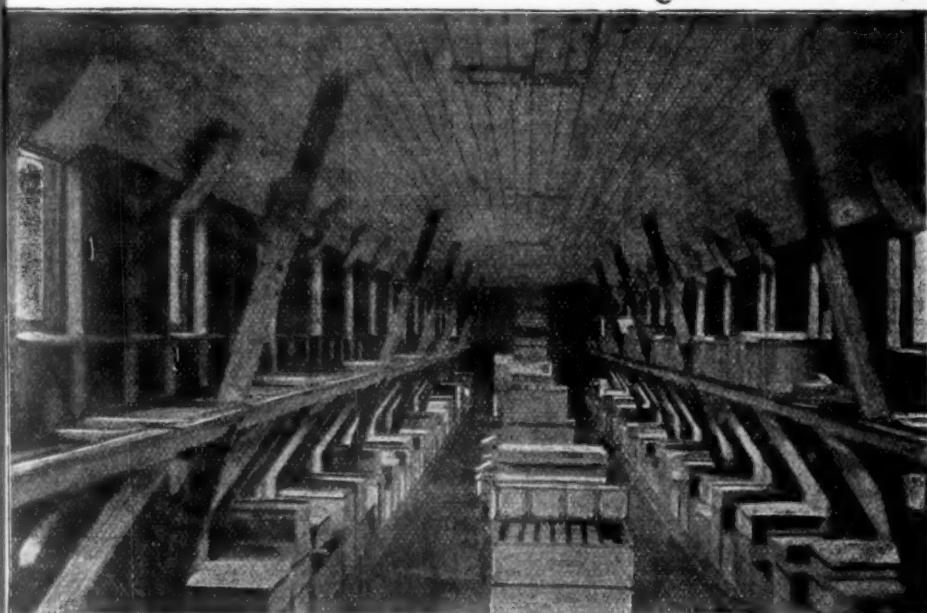
On the floor at each side of the house, is a platform the whole length of the

room, 3 inches high and 3 inches wider than the length of a hive. This platform is permanently stuffed with planer shavings. A plain hive with square corners and flat top is used. The hives stand on this platform, flush with the inside edge of the studding sidewise to the wall, 2 feet from center to center, thus bringing the ends only $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart. The entrance to each hive passes through the outside boarding nearly on a level with the floor, then rises on a slant to the top of the platform, and opens into the hive 4 inches from its outer side. This leaves a space for dead bees to accumulate, so that no rim is needed under the hive in winter.

Over the space between the hive and the wall, level with the bottom of the hive, is a loose cover with an inch hole in it. Then over this, nearly to the top of the hive, is another cover, resting on cleats on the studding. This forms a sort

in place, and letting them down through the inch hole and up into the hive at their leisure, one troublesome feature of most house-apiaries is avoided. These platforms provide for 100 hives. Above these platforms, $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the floor, is a shelf, formed by nailing an arm of inch stuff on each side of each studding, with a brace, 2 by 4 by 24, nailed between them and their outer ends, and spiked on the edge of the studding below. These brackets are floored over exactly like the lower platform, entrances and all, and packed for winter in the same way.

The windows consist of one light, 14 by 20, with the sash set into the wall without casings, and screwed to a cleat on each side, that is nailed inside the boarding. There is a window in front of every third hive. A hole is bored through the top sash close to the edge of the glass, and around each opening



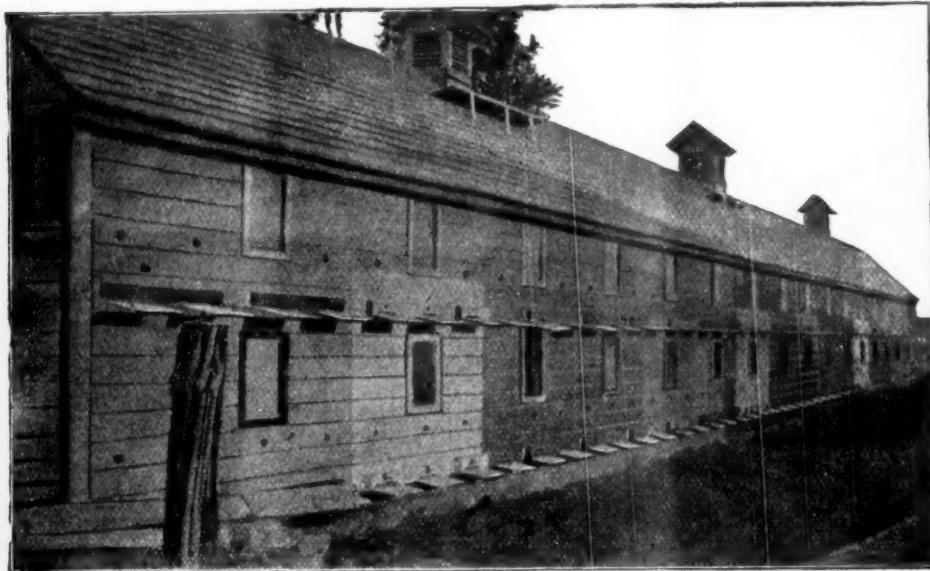
Interior View of Mr. H. P. Langdon's House-Apiary.

of box 4 by 22, and 9 inches deep, between the hive and the wall, and makes a very convenient place to get rid of bees that must be shaken off the covers, combs and other things. By tipping this upper cover back against the wall, shaking in the bees, dropping the cover

the wood is cut away inside, to lead out all bees that fly to the window. Just above the level of the cover of each hive is a 2-inch hole bored through the wall, with a wire cone in each. These are the bee-escapes proper of the house. All windows, except the one nearest the

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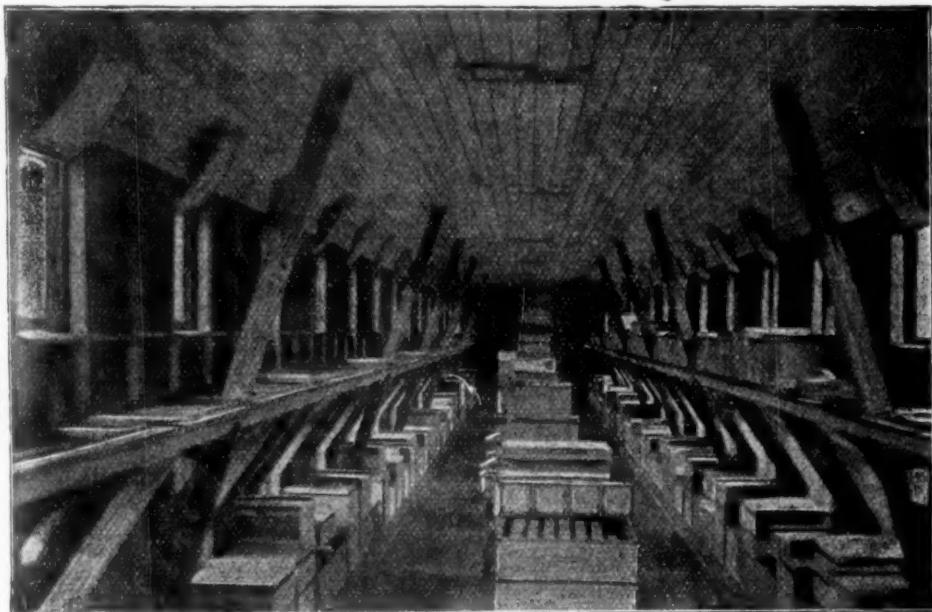
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hive being manipulated, are curtained quite dark, otherwise the bees do not leave the room well. Upward ventilation is obtained by three shafts, 8 by 10, through the ceiling and roof, into a cowl over each on the roof. Both these and the openings below can be closed in the winter. The draft is so strong most of the time that it will draw up a piece of paper, consequently no trouble is experienced by reason of smoke in the room.

The outside walls are painted in five different colors, of as great a contrast as could be made, 6 feet of each color in rotation. This brings a window of each upper and lower into the center of each color, also three entrances to each color, and works admirably in helping the bees to locate their hives. Each entrance has an alighting-board of the same color as the wall above.

For wintering, a cleat $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet long is screwed to the edge of the platform and shelf, with a wide board running lengthwise on the inside. This makes four troughs 100 feet long, with 50 hives standing in each. Planer shavings are then packed around the hives, both sides and ends, and over the top, and the bees are ready for winter.

[The foregoing article was written for the *American Agriculturist*, of New York, in which paper it appeared some time ago. We are also indebted to the same periodical for their kindness in furnishing us the engravings which help so much to get a clear idea of Mr. Langdon's famous house-apriary.—EDITOR.]

How Shall We Winter Our Bees?

Written for the American Bee Journal
BY J. E. POND.

I am led to ask the above question, by the actual results of the last four years, with two colonies of bees that came within my immediate observation. These two colonies are hived in ordinary $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story Langstroth hives, the lower stories being used as brood-chambers, the half stories being used for surplus, they having had no protection whatever, save what is given by putting them on the south side of an out-building.

During all those four years, these bees have been in no wise opened or disturbed; they have sent out swarm after swarm, that have gone where they

pleased, and this very year, on June 3rd, one of them sent out a large swarm, and then another on June 16th. The other sent out a swarm in the latter part of May, and another on June 12th, and to-day both hives are filled with bees.

The hives are made of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thick lumber. The seasons have varied, of course, but during each of these four years, the temperature has been as low as 12° to 15° Fahr. below zero.

Now does the above statement prove anything, or not? To my mind it proves just this, viz.: That these two colonies have wintered and thrived with absolutely no protection. We have been taught that we can foretell the future by past experience. This, to a certain—yes, to a very large—extent is true; and from the statement given above, I deduce a theory, and that is, that bees need no particular protection to cause them to winter safely; and further, that no rule for wintering has yet been given that can be said to be absolutely safe.

As I have stated many times in the past, I have always wintered my bees on the summer stands; the loss has been extremely small, and I have found it no less in colonies supposed to be well protected, than in those that were allowed "to go as they please."

The above is not written argumentatively, but is merely a matter of my own experience.

North Attleboro, Mass., June 23.

The Bee—Facts and Fancies.

*Read at One of the Regular Meetings,
BY "GOOD TEMPLAR."*

What's a bee? A bee is not a mineral, nor yet a vegetable. Then, of course, it must be an animal. It is a very small animal, being only about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch long, yet at times a boy or a girl will think it nearly as big as an elephant. A man weighing over 200 pounds once said to me that he would rather meet a bear any time than a bee that was coming toward him wrong end ahead!

Then, a bee is an insect. An insect is an animal divided into three distinct parts, has six legs and four wings, says Webster; yet many will tell us that the bee has two wings and four legs, and is whole, instead of being divided. Wonder which is right, Webster, or "I told you so."

Again, Webster says that bees breathe air in tubes by spiracles. Others tell us

that they have noses to breathe through, and don't go on church spires at all to do their breathing. Well, I never saw a bee on a church spire a-breathing, but I guess Webster is right about their not having noses.

Once more: Webster says that an insect is an articulate animal, whose body is divided by cross-lines or incisions, into a number of segments or rings, but he forgot to say that a bee when in just the right position would make a person articulate things which he would not say in his sober moments? The writer of this has so articulated many times, and yet, when asked in the Lodge if he has violated his obligation, he concludes he was sober enough after all, so he says he has not.

Then, bees gather honey from the flowers. A man asked me one day if the bees had made any honey yet. Just as though the bee was a confectioner, and could *make* honey at any time! No, bees do not make honey, but they do cell it, and strange to say they keep all they cell.

Again, a bee can sing; and when a bee really sings for all it is worth, it always has at least one interested listener. This singing seems the most important always when it sings in a person's hair. Let a bee once commence a tune in the hair, and the person is all attention at once. First, the person listens, then gesticulates a wonderful applause! Next, listens again to see if he is to have more music, and on hearing it again the gesticulations are greater than before, and some complimentary words put in! But there is usually an end to this singing, the same as to all other things, but this ends more pointedly.

A young lady was once at my house, and one of the bees came and sung in her hair. She had never heard such music before. The applause which she gave was very affecting. When asked what was the matter, she was so affected just at that moment that she said, "There is a bun-h-y h-e-e-e in my hair!"

But the hired man gave the most astonishing results when one sung for him. The first we knew that one was singing for him, was a sudden leap into the air, and a tremendous clawing at the head; then he bounded off around the house like a deer, expressing his approval at every bound by yelling, "Kill him! Kill him!" Three times around the house he went in this way, and when partly around the fourth time he was heard to say almost in a groan, "Kill hi-m-m!"

stopping short and turning very red in the face. We knew then how deeply he had been impressed.

But I am reminded that my time is up, so I will stop short.

GOOD TEMPLAR.

Introducing Shipped Queens.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY H. G. QUIRIN.

I see in an article on page 823 of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, a possible explanation of the difference in opinions between different queen-breeders, as regards the injury done to queens during shipment. Now, no doubt, there is something of the kind—that queens are injured while being shipped long distances—but hardly, if ever, are they injured when confined but a few days. I wonder whether Doolittle, and others who think queens have been injured through shipment, are certain that these queens which came under their notice as being impaired in general hardiness and laying qualities, were not injured while being introduced, as it is a well-known fact, that by most of the methods of introducing, queens are sometimes balled, and such queens are usually injured more or less. I will cite a few cases in which I might have laid the cause of injury to shipping.

Last season, while introducing some queens to colonies, I found, on examining them, that one of these queens was being balled, and was nearly dead, whereupon the queen was given back where I had taken her from, and in four days afterwards was successfully introduced to the bees which had balled her. Now this queen kept ten Langstroth frames crowded with brood before introducing her, while after she was introduced she hardly filled four frames; the bees superseding her five weeks afterwards. You see, this queen was not confined five minutes of her life.

Another case was where I united some colonies, the queen also being balled. This queen acted exactly like queen No. 1.

Does it not appear plain that had I received the above queens from abroad, and not knowing they were balled, to lay the cause of injury to shipping? Isn't it reasonable to believe that a queen has the power to discharge the accumulated egg-material, which is supposed to do the injury? or to use it to nourish her in place of honey?

It is well known that when a colony is robbed, and the bees are left to starve, or in almost any other case of starvation, the queen usually holds out the longest, being numbered among the last to die. Is it not reasonable to believe that the queen uses the egg-material to subsist on? And if she does so in a case of starvation, does she not do so when caged, and has no other use for such egg-material?

It is a well-known fact among poultrymen, that hens laying prolifically, when suddenly stopped laying, the embryo eggs already formed will never be laid, but will go towards the nourishment of the body; but these same hens will, when circumstances are favorable, lay afterwards just as prolifically as ever. Of course, the anatomy of a queen-bee no doubt is somewhat different from a hen, yet I think that a queen has the power to take care of that egg-material without injury to herself.

Bellevue, Ohio.

Italian Bees—Something Historical.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY C. J. ROBINSON.

On page 623 of the BEE JOURNAL for May 17th, the readers are informed by M. M. Baldridge that "certain statements have appeared in the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL that were said to be historical facts; but, on close inspection, they did not prove to be." The readers' attention is not called to any certain "statements" that "did not prove to be" facts. Until Mr. B. shows that "from time to time certain statements have appeared in the 'Old Reliable'" that were incorrect, his accusation may be taken for naught, prompted by unworthy critics.

Following Mr. B.'s accusation in general, he proceeds to "prove" certain of my "statements" wilfully false, because I differ from his version of what occurred—facts in the history of the earliest importation of Italian bees. Mr. B. says that I "insinuated that Mr. Parsons was dishonest." *Dishonest* only expresses a faint idea of the case when the facts are known, and as he calls on me "to explain," I am glad of the occasion to "prove" by the records the dishonesty of Mr. Parsons, and the record which I put in evidence involves Mr. M. M. Baldridge with Parsons. Facts are justifiable whenever a controversy is at

issue, so I will make plain the meaning I wish to convey.

The facts in the case brought in issue by Mr. Baldridge are as follows:

In 1859, Mr. S. B. Parsons, of Flushing, N. Y., a nurseryman and self-styled botanist, obtained a commission from the Chief of the Patent Office, then having the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, to travel in Europe and purchase cuttings and plants for testing in this country. While he was on his mission, the Chief transmitted an order to Parsons, directing to purchase colonies of bees in Italy, and forward them to the Department. He made his official report to the Chief, which was printed in the Annual Report of the Department to Congress—see the Official Report for 1859, page 543, wherein Parsons reports among other matters that in pursuance of the said order, he purchased ten colonies of Italian bees for the Government, and ten colonies for himself.

What became of the ten colonies purchased for the Government by Agent Parsons? The sequel is a matter of record. Mr. Parsons reported that he contracted with a Mr. Hermann (a German) to purchase the bees in Italy and transport them in original hives to America, but Hermann sent an Austrian by the name of Bodmer in charge of the bees. In May, 1860, Mr. Langstroth said the bees landed at New York the 18th of April, 1860, but this has, "on close inspection," been found not to be facts.

Prof. C. V. Riley, on page 208 of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for Feb. 16, 1893, mentions that the bees arrived in May, and he quoted from the Government records. But Mr. Riley was in error in saying that the "Department succeeded where private enterprise had failed." The history shows that the Department failed where private transaction succeeded. How about the failure and the success? Mr. Baldridge implicitly says I am not reliable—"not willing to stand corrected"—wholly unlike himself—so I quote Mr. Langstroth to "prove" my items of history. Mr. L. recorded (see AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for March 16, 1881, page 82), from which same page Mr. B. quotes a paragraph:

"I was called to Flushing, N. Y., by Mr. Parsons, to visit him and advise with him as to the best way of managing his Italian bees.....On arriving at Flushing, Mr. Parsons showed me five hollow logs or 'gums' placed in an old bee-shed," etc.

Mr. Langstroth fixes the date of his

"visit" in the "spring of 1856." It is well known that not until 1860 were any bees imported direct from Italy. Mr. L. details in his story of that visit thus:

"On the 19th of April (1856, he says), as soon as the bees were allowed to be landed, they were carried to Flushing. The small boxes in which they were put up, were in three different packages, one of which was consigned to the United States Government (I call attention to the fact that this mention of the United States Government in connection with Italian bees is the first and only mention Mr. L. has put on record. He has ignored the Government, and aimed to credit Parsons with the whole honor of being the first importer of Italian bees from Italy—a private enterprise, according to his version); one to Mr. Mahan and one to Mr. Parsons and I can assure Mr. Robinson that every colony consigned to the Government and Mr. Mahan, was dead (?)."

Mr. Mahan never ordered bees from Italy—he would not have ordered bees through Parsons, and no bees were "consigned to Mr. Mahan." If bees had been consigned to Mr. Mahan, of Philadelphia, they ought not, and would not have been taken to Flushing to be examined by Parsons and Langstroth, for it is well known that Mahan was more of an expert bee-man than Langstroth, and as mentioned by Mr. L. on page 82: "On my way (to Flushing) I called upon Mr. Mahan, who was joint owner of a large interest in my patent hive." Thus it will be seen that Mahan was interested with Mr. Langstroth, and was, at least, his peer.

It is history, recorded by Mr. L., that he was invited by Parsons to visit him and advise as to the best way of managing his Italian bees. Parsons had received bees from Italy. Mr. L. goes to Flushing and meets Parsons, who "showed him five hollow logs or gums. I saw only an occasional bee flying out from one of the hives. These colonies had been purchased in Italy. Four of these died at Flushing. The fifth contained a mere handful of bees, with their queen, which I introduced to a colony of black bees." Now, as his story runs, while on the same visit, he goes on and describes the incidents of the importing of the bees consigned to the Government, Mahan and Parsons.

As Mr. L. records the incidents, he was first shown the log hives direct from Italy, and he makes the date the spring of 1856; then he must have been shown the small boxes put up in

three packages, as he says, one for the Government, etc. He does not explain how it came to pass that Parsons and himself assumed possession of the packages consigned to the Government—no package was consigned to Mr. P. J. Mahan. But Mr. L. records: "A few, only, of those marked for Mr. Parsons (?) had living queens, some of which soon died, and in a short time he found himself the possessor of only two queens, one of which was the queen found alive on my arrival at Flushing." Mark, Mr. L. finds one Italian queen in the hollow log, and one in the package consigned to Parsons, and he treats the consignments as one shipment. No reader can reconcile the statements made as history by Mr. L. in his criticism of the history recorded by me.

Mr. L. recorded: "One of the queens (the two he saved) was intrusted to the care of Mr. Wm. W. Cary, of Colerain, Mass., on the premises of Parsons, and the other to Mr. Bodmer (who came over with the bees), some distance away." Please note: In the spring of 1860 Mr. Parsons has two Italian queens. In the spring of 1861 Mr. Parsons inserts an advertisement in the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, which reads thus—I here transcribe *verbatim*:

"Orders will now be received for these bees, to be delivered in the spring (1861). A circular will be sent to all applicants inclosing a stamp. In it will be found the terms, and also reports from Mr. Langstroth, Dr. Kirtland, Mr. Bracket, Mr. Baldridge (the man who wrote the criticism on page 623, reflecting on me), and others, testifying fully, from *actual observation* (?) to the great superiority of this race of bees over the common bee."

The record shows that the said critic certified to the "great superiority" of Italian bees from "actual observation." How could either of the parties have had actual observation as to a comparison of the two races of bees when the facts were that neither man had an opportunity to see a working colony of Italian bees? Bear in mind, only two queens near New York in the season of 1860; in the forepart of the year 1861, a period of five-months' bee-season, Langstroth (I doubt his being guilty), Kirtland and Baldridge [of the far West], certify [to favor Mr. P.] that they have actually observed the habits, propensities, breeding qualities, working as honey-gatherers, comb builders, wintering, hardiness, etc. Every practical bee-keeper knows, when informed of the facts in the case, that those whose

names appear in Parsons' advertisement, if *bona fide*, were incompetent witnesses, and language can't express condemnation deserved by the author of said advertisement. It is an item of history, important for all time.

One other item of history in the case is recorded by Mr. Langstroth in his criticisms of my "statements." He says:

"The bees sent to Mr. Parsons [the bees in the three packages] were in cigar-boxes into which the combs were merely crowded or wedged; the loosening of the combs on so rough a voyage killed some of the queens, while others were drowned, with their bees, in honey; and others still, starved from the boxes being overcrowded with bees."

From this the reader will learn that the bees Parsons, as employee of our Government [champion for honesty, if Mr. Baldridge backs him], failed to perform his duty that was entrusted to him in the capacity of an obligated official bound by law or conscience. Every bee-man knows that bees could not be expected to survive a passage from Genoa, Italy, to New York while packed in cigar-boxes as described by Mr. Langstroth.

Mr. Baldridge takes issue with my statement that—as he erroneously quotes me—the United States Government paid about \$1,800 for importing Italian bees, and got nothing in return. I challenge him to refer to any record showing that I have made such positive statement. It is a matter of recorded history that the United States Government attempted to import bees from Italy; that S. B. Parsons bought, as agent, ten colonies of bees in Italy, and ordered the bees sent to America. This incurred expense—by whom was it paid, and how great a sum? Mr. Mahan endeavored to learn the amount of the expense of the importation. He told me he was informed that the aggregate sum of the vouchers presented by agent Parsons amounted to \$1,800.

I then inquired, by letter, of the Chief of the Department, concerning the expenses, mentioning that it was reported that \$1,800 was the sum paid by the Department. The official evaded the question, but mentioned that "it did not near the amount you named." I regret that I did not keep the letter. Surely, the Government officials paid more or less money on the vouchers presented for services and disbursements. What was the sum total? The records in the archives of the Department will afford the desired information, unless

Mr. Baldridge "happens" to impeach the record by stating, at this late day, what he "happens to know of the main facts."

Mr. Langstroth recorded that, "The result of Mr. Parsons' dealings with Mr. Hermann [who was sub-agent of the Department, made such by Parsons by reason of a contract to deliver the bees as per order] was that for \$1,200 advanced to him, he [Parsons] had only two queens to show. The \$1,200 paid to Hermann, as Mr. L. said and probably believed, was money out of the United States Treasury as shown by the indisputable history of the case."

Mr. Baldridge calls on me to explain, and thus relieve him of the pain caused by his being racked with the "impression" he felt when reading my "statements" relating to Parsons, whose announcement he [Baldridge] certified to. He says: "But let me warn you in advance, to be very careful what you say in reply, for I happen [luckily] to know what the main facts are and were [?]." His threat implies that he aimed to have the readers understand that I do not hesitate to record false "statements" unless he does "warn" me of his flaming sword.

He says I am "one of the oldest writers on bee-culture now living in the United States." Yes, I am the junior of Mr. Langstroth in age, but read about and handled bees before Mr. L. appeared on the stage, and I challenge any reader to point to any incorrect "statement" recorded by me; nor have I bred queens for sale, or falsely certified to deceive readers—I have only tried to inform and benefit readers—*Pro bono publico*.

If permitted, in a further "reply," I will show P. J. Mahan was, indeed, the first who imported, and the first who bred and sold, Italian queens.

Richford, N. Y.

"Foul Brood: Its Natural History and Rational Treatment." is the title of an interesting booklet by Dr. Wm. R. Howard, of Texas. It also contains a review of the work of others on the same subject. It is being sold at the office of the BEE JOURNAL. Price, postpaid, 25 cents; or clubbed with the BEE JOURNAL for one year—both together for \$1.15.

Honey as Food and Medicine is just the thing to help sell honey, as it shows the various ways in which honey may be used as a food and as a medicine. Try 100 copies of it, and see what good "salesmen" they are. See the second page of this number of the BEE JOURNAL for description and prices.



Do not write anything for publication on the same sheet of paper with business matters, unless it can be torn apart without interfering with either part of the letter.

Bees are Booming.

We are having the best honey-flow that we have had for years. The alfalfa is furnishing more nectar than I ever knew it to yield before. Bees wintered fairly well last winter. I have 65 colonies now. There is about 25 acres of alfalfa left for seed, all within one mile of my bees.

C. C. ZINN.

New Windsor, Colo., July 15.

Tansy Leaves Drive Ants Away.

I see from the BEE JOURNAL and other sources, complaints about ants troubling bees. I saw a statement in the New York Voice, that "tansy leaves will drive away ants." I laid the leaves between the cloth and hive-cover, close about the ant-nest, and on all trials in 24 hours all traces of the ant-pests were gone. It has never failed with me.

Marion, Ind. JOHN RATLIFF.

Unfavorable Year for Bees.

This year my bees are far behind, as I have not taken or sold one pound of honey yet. I have looked over the bees, and find some honey that will do to take in a week or two. Last year and year before were bad honey years in this locality, but this year is the worst I have seen since I have kept bees. The March freeze, the May snow, and the dry weather at present, have played havoc with the honey crop in this locality.

J. M. PRATT.

Todd's Point, Ky., July 9.

Buffalo Co., Nebr., Convention.

Five or six of our bee-keepers invited all the bee-keepers of Buffalo county to meet on June 25th, in the City Hall at Kearney, at 2 p.m. At the appointed time there were present: A. Stedwell,

Phil Brady, A. J. Scott, J. C. Knoll, Frank Higgins, Wm. Travilpiece, B. O. Getchell, A. W. Smith, J. W. Shahan, and J. C. Pierce.

A. Stedwell was elected temporary Chairman, and J. W. Shahan Secretary.

It was decided that we proceed to organize a bee-keepers' association, and that the association be called the "Buffalo County Bee-Keepers' Association." A Constitution and By-Laws were then adopted. And annual dues were fixed at 50 cents per annum, and officers were elected as follows:

President, A. Stedwell; Vice-President, Wm. Travilpiece; Secretary, J. C. Knoll; and Treasurer, A. W. Smith.

It was decided we hold a special meeting on the last Saturday of each month, at 2.m. The next meeting will be held at Kearney, in the City Hall, on the last Saturday in July. The place of each successive meeting is to be determined then.

Information was wanted by Mr. Scott, on how to prevent bees from robbing. Several of those present replied.

The ten members represented 72 colonies.

J. C. KNOLL, Sec.

Glenwood Park, Nebr., June 26.

Too Dry for the Bees.

We are having a poor honey year here, having had no rain to speak of for about two months. Bees are making a living, but hardly anything more. The hives are full of bees and brood. We have had no swarming yet. I am hoping they will not venture, as it is so dry. We are hoping to get rain soon; if we do, we will have a big fall flow. A bad beginning sometimes makes a good ending. So we live in hopes that better things are in store for us.

N. E. FEAKINS.

New Richmond, Wis., July 14.

Rainy and Cold Season.

I like to look over the reports published in the BEE JOURNAL from different sections of the country; in fact, I like to read all there is in it, and do if I have time. The prospect of even an average crop of good, marketable honey is not favorable, at least I know it is not so in my case. Bees had been doing well from about the middle of April to the 18th of May, and the hives were filled with brood, and a fair supply of honey; especially was this the case with all good colonies.

On May 18th it commenced with

showers, and finally set in for a steady rain, which lasted until the 25th, and even rained some that day, but as some of my colonies were ready to swarm, and as the sun broke through the clouds, out they came, and the next day two more swarmed, and still the 27th two more. Then a steady cold rain commenced, and lasted six days, and even then when it stopped raining, the bees swarmed, with not even one pound of honey in the hive, but all other preparations were complete.

May 25th is as early as I have ever had a swarm here, and only in one instance have I ever had a swarm earlier than the above—that was the 20th of May, when I was in Oswego county. I have resided here (Allegany county) 37 years, and in fact I have had bees every year since my 9th birthday, when my father gave me my first colony—about 58 years ago. But all this time I have had other business.

During this long term with the bees I have learned many pleasing and interesting lessons. I have always, from the commencement, taken an interest in bees and their various operations, and claim to have been a close observer of their natures and habits. I can read a colony of bees as one would a book. All I know about bees and their management I have learned from practice and experience, although having read a great deal in the bee-papers, of which I am very fond.

This season I have learned something new in relation to bees and honey. The main supply of honey, so far, is from white daisies. I have a good sample, yellow enough. If it were not for this source, bees would be in bad condition.

H. F. NEWTON.

Whitney's Crossing, N. Y., July 9.

Too Dry and Too Cold for Clover.

Bees have been a failure in this part of the State for six years, but I am still interested in them. I have 25 good colonies of the best bees Illinois can furnish, but I had only two swarms in May. Dry weather last fall, and cold in March, killed all the white clover, so this year will be a failure again. So it gives me an easy time—nothing to do—nothing to buy, and nothing to sell—only waiting for better times. Honey brings a good price—25 cents a pound—so it is a good chance for the Wiley men to make some money out of their manufactured comb honey!

D. R. ROSEBROUGH.

Casey, Ill., July 12.

Quantity, Not Quality.

In my article on page 20 is a mistake which I wish to have corrected. I am made to say, "Our country does not come up to some others in *quality*, etc." It should have been *quantity*, for I do not think any section of country can "lay us in the shade" this year on "quality." It is "quantity" that we are short on. It is about 20 to 25 pounds, with good average colonies so far this year.

I want to make the above correction in justice to our Mississippi honey, for some Northern people might want an extra fine article sometime, and would not send to Mississippi for it likely, with my former article to judge from.

W. T. LEWIS.

Lewisburgh, Miss., July 10.

Convention Notices.

CALIFORNIA.—An extra session of the Central California Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in Hanford, Kings Co., on August 1, 1894.

J. F. FLORY, Sec.

Lemoore, Calif.

WISCONSIN.—The next annual meeting of the Wisconsin Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at Madison, on Feb. 8th and 9th, 1895.

Madison, Wis. J. W. VANCE, Cor. Sec.

ILLINOIS.—The summer meeting of the Northern Illinois Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at the residence of William Farnham, 4 miles southwest of Rockford, Ill., on August 21, 1894.

B. KENNEDY, Sec.

New Milford, Ill.

PENNSYLVANIA.—The Venango County Bee-Keepers' Association of northwestern Pennsylvania will hold their 2nd annual meeting in the City Hall at Franklin, Pa., on Jan. 28, 1895, at 1 o'clock p.m. All interested send for program.

C. S. Pizer, Sec.

Franklin, Pa.

TENNESSEE.—The next annual meeting of the East Tennessee Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at Whitesburg, Tenn., beginning on Thursday, August 16, 1894. All members and other interested in bee-culture are invited to attend.

H. F. COLEMAN, Sec.

Sneadville, Tenn.

THE NORTH AMERICAN B.-K. A.—The Quarter Centennial Meeting of this Society will be held at St. Joseph, Mo., on Oct. 16, 17 and 18, 1894. It is the first convention of the North American Association beyond the western bank of the Mississippi, and large delegations from the great West will be present. We hope the East, the North and the South will gather with them.

FRANK BENTON, Sec.

Dept. Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

NEBRASKA.—The next meeting of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at Lincoln, Neb., on the evenings of Sept. 11th, 12th and 13th, 1894, at the Honey Hall on the State Fair grounds, and in connection with the Bee and Honey Exhibit at the State Fair. An invitation is extended to every reader of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL to be present and sample the good things presented.

York, Neb. L. D. STILSON, Sec.